

MARGARET DONNELLAN TODD
COUNTY LIBRARIAN

October 18, 2002

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: Margaret Donnellan Todd
County Librarian

Marjorie Kelly *Marjorie Kelly (on P.)*
Interim Director, Department of Children and Family Services

Subject: **LIBRARY CARDS FOR FOSTER CHILDREN PILOT PROGRAM**

On August 20, 2002, your Board directed the County Librarian (Library) and the Director of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to establish a one-year pilot library card access program that does not hold foster parent financially liable, within 60 days and to report back to your Board within one year with an evaluation of the program and recommendations for its future continuance. Effective, October 21, 2002, the Library and DCFS have established a one-year pilot program and will report back within one year.

With documentation provided by DCFS to foster parents, children in the foster care program will receive a County library card which will give full children's access to County library materials and services, including filtered Internet access. To ensure that foster children and their foster parents are not hindered from library use by fees for overdue materials, foster children in the pilot program will not be sent notices or charged fees for any overdue or lost materials that they check out on their library cards. During the pilot period, the cost of any unreturned materials will be assumed by the County Library. DCFS will take the lead in publicizing the program to foster parents through its social workers and staff, by distributing flyers in foster parent pay warrant envelopes, and at foster parent training sessions. At the end of the pilot, the program will be evaluated jointly by both departments for its impact on foster children, its effectiveness and its potential costs.

The enclosed materials will provide additional information regarding the implementation of the pilot program. If you or your staff need additional information on the pilot program, please, contact Penny Markey, Youth Services Coordinator, at the County Library at 562-940-8522 or Helen Berberian, DCFS Board Liaison, at (213) 351-5530.

MDT:PSM:rla

Attachment

C: Chief Administrative Officer
Board Liaisons

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